

Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee
Approved Minutes of the Wednesday, February 13, 2008 Regular Meeting
Himmel Park Library, 1035 N. Treat Avenue
Tucson, AZ

Prepared and Submitted by
Secretary Richard Corbett,
Tucson Ward 5 Representative

1. Call to Order, Introductions and Approval of January Meeting Minutes

A quorum being present, Chair Diana Tolton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Members and guests present then introduced themselves (see attendance list at end of this document).

Vice-Chair Brian Beck moved that the draft January BAC minutes be approved, and Downtown Sub-committee Chair David Bachman-Williams seconded.

There were five minor corrections/additions to the minutes, which were noted by Secretary Richard Corbett.

The motion to approve the corrected draft January BAC minutes was then voted on and passed unanimously.

2. Call to Public

Peter Sibley stated that he was riding his bike to work and was shot with a paint ball, but was not able to get an ID. A few days later, he was struck with a baseball bat while riding to work, but did get a license number and a positive ID on the driver. The case was dropped due to there being uncertainty as to the race of the driver.

Vice-Chair Brian Beck asked that the Enforcement Sub-committee look into this.

Scott Blanchard stated that he owns Pyramid Coaching, and trains endurance athletes. About four weeks ago, he was cycling on the west side of Gates Pass, when a motor home swerved into him and the driver screamed at him. He claims there are lots of these type actions.

Sheriff's Deputies responded, and 'mirandized' him, and following conversation with the motor home driver, issued him a citation for criminal damage (He stated that he had to put his hand on the motor home when it swerved into him). He asked the Deputy why the motor home driver was not cited, and says he was told that the Deputy 'did not see' it. There was another cyclist with Blanchard, yet the Deputy refused to take a statement from the witness.

Downtown Sub-Committee Chair David Bachman-Williams asked that the Enforcement Sub-committee look into this too.

Eric Ryberg stated that these two examples illustrate failures of the enforcement system to protect the interests of cyclists. He believes we have a severe problem in

the community, and wants a top down directive from the Chief of Police to stop these types of failures

Chair Diana Tolton stated that she wants this issue on a future agenda, and wants to learn how police treat cyclists. The BAC will look into this matter further.

Enforcement Sub-committee Chair Eric Post asked that he get more specific info on both cases.

Former BAC Member Bill Katzel stated that the RTA Board meeting was January 31st, and Chair Diana Tolton, Facilities Sub-committee Chair Bill Adamson, Member Norm Land, two GABA members, and he attended to testify in defense of the voter approved bike lanes list not being diluted with non-voter approved projects. The RTA Board did pass the non-voter approved Arroyo Chico project for funding from bike lane funds. Katzel stated he is concerned about the implications of this action in terms of future voter actions.

3. Law Enforcement Report

Tucson Police Sergeant Tim Beam reported 23 bike crashes for the month (the exact same as last year). The driver involved in a fatal on Broadway was indicted for 2nd degree murder, based on intoxication level, but the County Attorney took it as a manslaughter charge.

He went on to describe targeted enforcement for both motorists and cyclists is continuing to be expanded. Cyclist violations include wrong-way riding, sidewalk riding, and traffic signal violations. Motorist violations include passing too close, and right hooks.

Secretary Richard Corbett stated that the targeted enforcement at Speedway and Campbell could have been more effective if it had been earlier (7:00 to 8:30 am, as opposed to 9:00 – 11:00 am)

Enforcement Sub-committee Chair Eric Post asked about TPD computer search capabilities. Sgt Beam stated that there is now a check box for bicycle involved on the TPD electronic citation forms. He mentioned that TPD is handing out many Share the Road Guides

Pima County Bike Program Manager Matt Zoll stated that a good location for stop sign violations is Park Avenue in the University area.

Pima County Sheriff's Deputy Ryan Roher noted that there were two reported injury crashes, and both drivers were cited. There was also a hit and run at Overton & La Cholla, where a lighted cyclist was hit by a driver who rolled thru a stop sign. There were four non-injury crashes, and both drivers and cyclists were cited for various offenses.

Sgt Beam stated that TPD generally does not cite both parties, instead looking for the violation that lead to the collision, and ignoring the non-contributory actions.

Deputy Roher went on to relate the recent enforcement contact regarding the Shootout Ride. There continues to be concerns.

4. Arrington Case Recap

This item was not covered, as staff was not present to discuss it.

5. Recap of Davis Bike Conference from Attendees

Tucson Bike Coordinator Tom Thivener handed out a sheet that he had from the Davis Bike Conference, showing a program that Portland Oregon has called “Smart Trips”. He went on to describe the incentives and the staffing for the program. A coupon book is a key item for every participant. He believes we could undertake a similar program, using our Bike Ambassadors.

Pima County Bike Program Manager Matt Zoll supports this targeted marketing approach, and the use of Bike Ambassadors to promote and market it.

PAG Staff Gabe Thum stated that it might be possible for the PAG TRP program to use this approach.

Chair Diana Tolton said that it might be possible to ‘catch’ people along the Rillito path.

Vice-Chair Brian Beck asked how many Bike Ambassadors will there be? His concern is that they might be spread too thin. He suggested that the PAG TRP Program could support this approach, to bolster the Bike Ambassador Program.

PAG Staff Gabe Thum reported that he was impressed with bike planning in other countries – it gives a different perspective. He also attended a session on traffic engineering for cycling – measures of performance and safety. He was impressed with the tour of Davis’ facilities

Secretary Richard Corbett also attended (representing the Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists) and was very impressed with Program quality. He has been to many bike conferences and seminars, and was pleasantly surprised at how much new and useful content there was. He stressed his focus on pedestrian issues and needs.

6. RTA Update

Facilities Sub-committee Chair Bill Adamson asked PAG Staff Gabe Thum to report on the RTA meeting. Thum stated that all the projects were passed, and that the PAG Bike Ped Working Group membership is being updated. There is focus on how to prioritize the HAWK signals, and criteria for ‘Off-List’ projects. (!)

Chair Diana Tolton asked if the BAC could show the Master Plan to the Working Group?

PAG Staff Gabe Thum handed out a membership list of the RTA CART Committee, and mentioned that they (CART) are setting up criteria for projects.

Secretary Richard Corbett mentioned that he had asked to be on the PAG Bike-Ped Working Group, representing Arizona Walks (a Chapter of America Walks), and was told he would have to resign his BAC seat first.

Facilities Sub-committee Chair Bill Adamson pointed out that the list of RTA bike projects in the packet is impressive. He went on to state that he and others are working hard to try to overcome non-ballot projects being advanced for RTA funding. The map on the ballot came from the list that the PAG Bike-Ped Working Group developed over many months, and therefore is directly tied to it. Adamson believes that the non-staff members of the PAG Bike-Ped Working Group should be a majority of the Group.

Facilities Sub-committee Chair Bill Adamson moved for BAC to send a letter asking for these actions to PAG and the RTA Boards, with copies to all PAG jurisdictions. Parliamentarian Steve Bresler seconded the motion.

Pima County Bike Program Manager Matt Zoll suggested the letter include the request that all new projects go through the BAC.

Chair Diana Tolton said that the Arroyo Chico project needs input from the BAC- can it happen? PAG Staff Gabe Thum said yes, but who on BAC has design experience? Secretary Richard Corbett said he has sufficient design background and experience to do so (he cited his 25 years with ADOT, in addition to graduate CE courses).

Fomer Member Roy Schoonover cited the Veterans Memorial Overpass as an excellent example of citizen input and involvement – the Overpass and its connecting ramps are all bike-friendly. He said Marana has submitted four IGAs, and suggests that BAC seek input to these (Camino de Manana, and three intersections on Silverbell Road.

7. BAC Consent Agenda

Downtown Sub-Committee Chair David Bachman-Williams moved to approve the two items, and Member Wayne Cullop seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Facilities Sub-committee Chair Bill Adamson praised staff members Zoll, Thivener, and Thum for their hard work.

8. Discuss Upcoming Meeting with Town of Marana

It was proposed to meet at Marana on June 11th. Chair Diana Tolton will confirm this with Town Officials. The agenda is proposed to be full reports from each Sub-committee.

9. Subcommittee Reports

Ex-Officio Member Roy Schoonover stated it is critical to contribute and be involved with design and signage issues of the RTA projects. He cited some project examples as the basis for this – quality is so important to achieve.

Citizen Randy Rogers-Gardner asked if BAC interfaces with Tucson Clean and Beautiful? Chair Diana Tolton answered that we have not yet, but we will.

Executive: Chair Diana Tolton stated that she has been working with Tucson Bike Coordinator Tom Thivener to recognize former members. She then presented to Ex-Officio Member Roy Schoonover, the first ‘Schoonover Award’ – a really nicely done clock, made with bicycle chain wheels. It was noted that today (February 13th), is Roy’s birthday.

Ex-Officio Member Roy Schoonover thanked the BAC, and then went on to state that he has a meeting with Gary Hayes and Jim DeGrood tomorrow, to address the concerns about the bike-ped lists, and the extra projects that have been brought in. He went on to thank Chair Diana Tolton for her contributions.

Facilities Sub-committee Chair Bill Adamson stated that Roy Schoonover is the ‘Henry Kissinger’ of the BAC.

Education: Education Sub-committee Chair Brian Beck handed out a list of Bike Fest events, and noted that Tom Thivener had really done all the work in getting these arranged. There are lots of ‘tabling’ opportunities, and he has hopes to make use of the Bike Ambassadors to help. He will take the lead for the May 21st Ride of Silence, and may change the route to make it shorter (and easier for more people to participate).

There was discussion about the possibility of placing ‘Ghost Bikes’ to memorialize cyclists killed. There was concern expressed about the vandalization of these. Maybe paint them on the pavement? Pima County Bike Program Manager Matt Zoll said this could be a problem legally. Former Member Bill Katzel suggested using an iron cross welded to a white bike –he said one in Sahuarita had been in place for two years. Tucson Bike Coordinator Tom Thivener suggested that a monument at the planned Catalina Highway Park might work.

Citizen Randy Rogers-Gardner said that ADOT had been removing roadside memorials, but the Legislature made them legal in non-urban areas of the state. Enforcement Sub-committee Chair Eric Post said he would check on it.

Enforcement: Enforcement Sub-committee Chair Eric Post reported he had met with Ralph Phillips to discuss the shootout ride, and had a congenial discussion. He also met with Former Member Scott Biaggi, who observed that many riders are either out of state or foreign. Biaggi also observed that there are effectively no alternate routes. It might be possible to put a meeting together, but he doubts there would be much attendance. Post noted that the Police training videos had been

prioritized and that Tom Thivener has the list decided on at the Enforcement meeting.

Facilities: Facilities Sub-committee Chair Bill Adamson reported that the West Desert Preserve (Green Valley) is in the Pima County Bond Package and moving forward. He also mentioned the upcoming PAG TIP open houses, in Green Valley March 4th, and in Tucson March 7th and 11th.

Downtown: Downtown Sub-Committee Chair David Bachman-Williams reported that the Downtown Links design has been modified to better accommodate cyclists and pedestrians, and is well under way. Church and Sixth Street will be a “T” intersection, as well as enhanced landscaping. He went on to say that Shared Lane Use markings would be used on Stone and Sixth Avenues, instead of the previously ill-conceived ‘door zone’ bike lanes.

PAG Platinum Task Force: PAG Platinum Task Force Chair Richard Corbett reported that the draft application has been completed, and he went on to thank his committee chairs: Donna Lewandowski, Kathryn Skinner, Tom Thivener, Gabe Thum, and Sgt Paul Tosca. Corbett observed that the application is greatly improved in virtually all areas.

10. Action Item Review

No report on this item.

11. Staff Reports

PAG Staff Member Gabe Thum announced that the 2006 crash data is in

Pima County Bike Program Manager Matt Zoll reported that 6th Avenue is a great improvement.

Tucson Bike Coordinator Tom Thivener reported further on the shared lane use markings, and also revealed that on U of A, there will be a ‘Bike Box’ experiment.

12. Announcements

Downtown Sub-Committee Chair David Bachman-Williams reported that there is no ban on bikes on the I-10 frontage roads, as has been rumored.

13. Adjournment

Secretary Richard Corbett moved to adjourn the meeting, Enforcement Sub-committee Chair Eric Post seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

~~~ ATTENDANCE ~~~

**Members**

Bill Adamson, Pima County  
Donna Aversa, Oro Valley  
David Bachman-Williams, Pima County  
Brian Beck, Ward 2 (Vice-Chair)  
Dave Boston, Ward 6  
Steve Bresler, Ward 1 (Parliamentarian)  
Richard Corbett, Ward 5 (Secretary)  
Tony Crosby, Pima County  
Wayne Cullop, Ward 4  
Jean Gorman, Mayor's Representative  
Norm Land, Pima County  
Martha Lemen, Pima County  
Eric Post, Pima County  
Diana Tolton, Pima County (Chair)

**Staff**

Sgt Tim Beam, Tucson Police Dept.  
Nancy Ellis, Oro Valley  
Dep. Ryan Roher, Sheriff's Office  
Tom Thivener, TDOT  
Gabe Thum, PAG  
Matt Zoll, PCDOT

**Members of the Public**

Scott Blanchard, Citizen  
Dan Distefano, Citizen  
Bill Katzel, Citizen  
Randy Rogers-Gardner, Citizen  
Eric Ryberg, Citizen  
Anastasia Sibley, Citizen  
Peter Sibley, Citizen  
Kylie Walzak, Citizen